

April 13, 1951

Dr. Alexander Hollaender  
Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
P. O. Box P  
Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Dear Alex:

There are very few people for whom I have as high a regard in every respect as I do for David Bonner, and for whom I would be willing to give as unreserved a recommendation and expression of confidence. I have the utmost confidence in him as an individual, as a scientist, and as a patriotic American, and would not have the slightest question as to his trustworthiness in every respect. He has an extremely likeable personality and a highly developed ethical feeling of responsibility.

I wonder whether the minor questions you refer to might not reflect some peoples' reactions to Bonner's individuality of thought and his unquenchably free expression of opinion. I can well imagine that these aspects of his personality and character might lead to personality difficulties or possibly to doubts as to his fundamental approach to world and national problems. However I have not the slightest doubt in my own mind as to his qualifications for the position at Oak Ridge, including the suitability of clearing him for access to any or all restricted materials.

While I am writing you there were a couple of other items which I wanted to mention. These are first my pleasure at learning that Dr. Giese is to give a seminar at Oak Ridge. Secondly, I wanted to ask whether there were any possibilities for a postdoctorate fellowship of some sort for which Dr. Carl A. Beam might qualify. Beam got his degree in absentia from Yale last summer and has been on a U. S. Public Health postdoctorate fellowship this year here. He has been working primarily in radiation effects on micro-organisms and has done a very nice job with a number of difficult aspects. He has just recently returned from a trip east where he had the opportunity of discussing his work with Dr. Atwood, who is I believe going to Oak Ridge next year with Bonner. Apparently they see eye to eye on many of the problems concerned relating to lethal and mutational effects of radiation in micro-organisms, and Beam would like very much to work with Atwood and the rest of your group at Oak Ridge if such a project were feasible and if some sort of support could be obtained. Any suggestions you have will be greatly appreciated, and I shall be glad to give you further information on Beam if it is desired.

With very best personal regards to you and Mrs. Hollaender,

Yours,

E. L. Tatum

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